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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE POPULATION INFORMATION NETWORK FOR AFRICA (POPIN-AFRICA)

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ANNEX I

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the 3rd Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, and Demographers, a progress report was submitted on the Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa). Although the historical background, mandates and objectives of POPIN-Africa were all covered in that presentation, it is appropriate to refer to these briefly here. Population information activities have been undertaken by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) as far back as 1970. Following the 1974 World Population Conference held in Bucharest, these activities have continued to expand. ECA Conference resolutions 366(XIV) of 1979 and 400(XV) of 1981 called for the need to expand and intensity ECA's activities in the field of population, information dissemination and documentation. Furthermore, the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population, adopted at the Second African Population Conference in Arusha, Tanzania (1984), also emphasize the need of population information for development planning. It contains a number of recommendations on the improvement of population information in ECA member States

2. POPIN-Africa's objectives include the establishment of an information network that will facilitate the flow and exchange of population information in member States of ECA. Sub-regional centres and national centres dealing with population information dissemination and documentation will be members of POPIN-Africa. The activities of the network will be co-ordinated by the POPIN-Africa Co-ordinating Unit in the Population Division of ECA. The Co-ordinating Unit has a staff comprisin a Co-ordinator, a Documentalist, and four support staff. The Co-ordinating Unit is funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada has supported and/or indicated its interest in supporting the sub-regional centres, namely, the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Demographique (IFORD), Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC), the Population Information and Documentation System for Africa (PIDSA), and RESADOC of the Sahel Institute.

3. POPIN-Africa was launched in January 1984 starting with activities at the Co-ordinating Unit at ECA Population Division. Sub-regional centres will make active participation as soon as the funding arrangements have been finalized. Eight national centres have already been invited to participate in POPIN-Africa activities.

4. The Co-ordinating Unit of POPIN-Africa works and collaborates with the PAN-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) which has been involved in the establishment of POPIN-Africa. Both PADIS and POPIN-Africa have common goals and objectives except that POPIN-Africa focuses on population information activities. PADIS computer facilities and services as well as technical experience are an asset to this project. PADIS is expected to play an important role in POPIN-Africa in the future particularly in information processing, and retrieval and dissemination. There has also been close co-operation between POPIN-Africa and the global International Popin (POPIN) at the United Nations Population Division in New York.

5. This paper presents (a) the specific functions to be performed by the Co-ordinat Unit, the sub-regional centres and the national centres; (b) a progress report of activities since the 3rd Session of this Conference; and (c) the 1986-1987 planned activities.

II. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMPONENTS OF POPIN-AFRICA

6. At the POPIN-Africa Review Meeting held in Addis Ababa, 10-12 December 1984, specific functions to be performed by the various components of the network were outlined as follows:

(a) The Co-ordinating Unit (Secretariat): The functions of the Co-ordinating Unit are:

(i) to co-ordinate and ensure a continuous flow of information among the various units at national,subregional and international levels;

(ii) to act as liaison of the network to other regional and international centres;

(iii) to monitor the agreed-upon procedure for the network members and issue an information bulletin (POPIN-Africa Briefs) to network members on current activities and latest developments among network members;

(iv) to call meetings periodically to discuss special problems and any new methodological developments of relevance to the network;

(v) to publisize and promote the network's activities and services by issuing promotional literature etc;

(vi) to develop a series of manuals and guidelines on procedures, operations and policies;

(vii) to establish a 'referral' file to include inputs from all participating centres and produce POPINDEX-Africa;

(viii) to compile lists of relevant sources of population information in the Region and offer appropriate referral services to network members as well as other users;

(ix) to distribute to network members updates of the merged POPIN-Africa file in both printouts and magnetic tapes/discs, whichever is applicable;

(x) to assess training and technical assistance needs for the network operations, co-ordinate and make arrangements for appropriate training;

(xi) to solicit for and account for external funds for network operations;

(xii) to evaluate network progress through both internal and external evaluation.

(b) Functions of the Sub-regional Participating Centres: These functions include:

(i) compiling information on sources of all periodicals/ journals and similar publications emanating from the sub-region. Union lists of such holdings will be essential;

(ii) monitoring and keeping track of relevant seminars, conferences and workshops in the area, which generate population information;

(iii) establishing a register of population personalities and researchers within the sub-region and using them as contacts for research papers etc. The university campuses are a very good source of this;

(iv) building strong, up-to-date collections of relevant journals, books and other non-conventional documents to supplement national efforts, especially where national participating centres are not in a position to acquire those for themselves;

(v) providing the Co-ordinating Unit with completed worksheets giving bibliographic descriptions, abstracts and descriptions for the documents they include in their data bases for eventual inclusion in the POPIN-Africa file;

(vi) acting as referral agent for obtaining and disseminating population information and documentation to the various users of the network at the sub-regional level;

(vii) providing specialized bibliographic and other services to their immediate clientele;

(viii) acting as a liaison between the Co-ordinating Unit and the national participating centres;

(ix) providing, in joint co-operation with the Co-ordinating Unit, support for the acquisition programmes of the national participating centres;

(x) assisting the Co-ordinating Unit in assessing training and technical assistance needs at the sub-regional levels.

(c) Functions of the National Partipating Centres

7. The eventual goal of POPIN-Africa is to enable the member countries of the ECA to build up strong and viable information system to support their decision-making and policies within the general context of socio-economic development. The Co-ordinating Unit and the sub-regional participating centers therefore serve as vehicles towards this eventual goal to assist national participating centres in training personnel working on population information documentation and dissemination as well as to provide advisory services.

8. The specific responsibilities and functions of the national participating centres are to:

(i) assess the information needs for planners and policymakers, administrators and other government and nongovernment institutions as well as individuals involved in national population related programmes;

(ii) develop a composite profile of the resources for information gathering and resource sharing;

(iii) develop a national network of the various sub-units engaged in population research and other activities at the country level;

(iv) be responsible for promoting the network and its use among the user clientele (government officials etc.);

(v) act as a referral agent to resources within the country and assist in obtaining and disseminating information and materials between the sub-units of the national network and the sub-regional and regional units;

(vi) provide the Co-ordinating Unit and the sub-regional participating centres with information on current activities, latest developments at the national level, specialized acquisitions in special subject areas, for inclusion in the POPIN-Africa Briefs;

(vii) use the standard bibliographic worksheet to catalogue, index and abstract national materials for eventual input into the regional POPIN-Africa file. (Format of basic information ought to be done according to agreed standards so as to be compatible as much as possible with anticipated eventual computerization).

(viii) provide a periodic selected list of new acquisitions to the sub-regional participating centres and the Co-ordinating Unit;

(ix) co-ordinate activities regarding the establishment of a national union catalogue which could be distributed by the Co-ordinating Unit to other participants of the network;

(x) provide photocopies of materials to national sub-units and other users;

(xi) co-operate with the Co-ordinating Unit in the assessment of training and technical assistance needs. Training of national personnel will be co-ordinated by the Co-ordinating Unit at the request of the national participating centres and the sub-regional participating centres.

III. PROGRESS REPORT OF POPIN AFRICA ACTIVITIES DURING 1984-1985

9. At the time this paper was drafted financing arrangements for PIDSA had not been finalized. A submission for IFORD had been sent to IDRC for consideration. IDRC had assisted CDC to prepare a project document for infrastructure building to prepare this centre for its possible participation in POPIN-Africa. In the case of RESADOC, IDRC support continued.

10. For the period under review, national centres had not been involved in POPIN-Africa activities. The rationale for this being that it is necessary to first establish the necessary infrastructure at the Co-ordinating Unit and sub-regional centres before involving national centres actively.

11. Since there has been little involvement of the sub-regional centres and no involvement of the national centres, this progress report covers activities undertaken mostly by the POPIN-Africa Co-ordinating Unit. These activities cover publications, and clearing-house services, updating of mailing list, technical assistance and consultations, UNFPA review mission on the Co-ordinating Unit, POPIN-Africa Review Meeting, POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee Meeting, participation at the International Population Information Network (POPIN) Advisory Committee Meeting. Activities on these are presented briefly below.

(a) Publications and Clearing-house Services. The Co-ordinating Unit prepared the following publications:

(i) <u>African Population Profile:</u> This publication contains maps and charts with commentaires on demographic characteristics, socio-economic characteristics and perceptions on population growth and policies. The publication was prepared for the International Conference on Population held in Mexico City in August 1984.

(ii) <u>POPIN-Africa Briefs</u>(combined issues 1 and 2): This publication is intended to inform network participants of activities in population information and documentation.

(iii) <u>POPINDEX-Africa:</u> At the time of preparation of this report, the first issue of this publication had been completed and work on preparation of the second issue was in progress. POPINDEX-Africa is a bibliographic index containing abstracts

on population documents relating to African countries. PADIS has assisted the Co-ordinating Unit in establishing a computerized data base on POPINDEX-Africa.

(iv) African Population Newsletter: Four issues of this publication were published during 1984 and 1985.

12. Following the POPIN-Africa Review Meeting held in 1984, the publication of POPIN-Africa Bulletin will not be initiated as that meeting considered the publication not appropriate to the project.

13. Regarding clearing-house activities the dissemination of information through publications by the ECA Population Division and those received from other organizations constituted one of the main activities. Publications distributed are shown in the Annex.

14. At the request of international POPIN, the Population Division sent its publications on population for exhibit at (a) Population Conference in Mexico and (b) at the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) conference in Florence, Italy, in June 1985.

(b) Updating Mailing List.

Action was taken to update and computerize the mailing list used for dissemination of population information and publications.

(c) Technical Assistance and Consultations

A consultant was provided by Johns Hopkins University (USA) for one month (May 1984) on improving the publication programme of ECA Population Division. Upon a request from the Arab League in Tunis, the documentalist provided technical assistance regarding the establishment of a Pan-Arab Population Information Network (PAPIN) in 1984. A report on this was presented to the Arab League. During 1984 the documentalist also visited the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Population Documentation Centre in Rome. Collaborative arrangements regarding documents exchange have been established between that centre and POPIN-Africa Co-ordinating Unit. Again in 1984, the documentalist visited the CDC to familiarize herself with the activities of that centre regarding its preparedness to participate in POPIN-Africa activities. A similar visit was undertaken to RESADOC at the Sahel Institute in Bamako, Mali in 1985.

(d) UNFPA Review Mission on the Co-ordinating Unit

The UNFPA sent a mission to review the activities of the POPIN-Africa Co-ordinating Unit in September/October 1984. The mission, among other things, called for a revised work plan of activities and a rephasal of the 1984 budget and a revision of the 1985 budget. This was done accordingly.

(e) POPIN-Africa Review Meeting, 10-12 December 1984.

Originally it had been planned to organize a training workshop on population information and documentation during the third quarter of 1984. However, since funds were not allocated for this by donor agencies, it was not possible to conduct the workshop. This was then reformulated to POPIN-Africa Review Meeting held in Addis Ababa in order to continue contact and dialogue among the centres involved in the project and to discuss common problems. The meeting reviewed progress of work during 1984 by the Co-ordinating Unit; it discussed compartibility among the existing bibliographic worksheets and decided on a common worksheet for use by POPIN-Africa. It also reviewed the 1985 planned activities. The meeting was attended by representative from IFORD, Sahel Institute, the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), Centre for African Family Studies (CAFS), and ECA.

15. The following recommendations were made by the Review Meeting:

(i) that the sharing of responsibilities and coverage as agreed upon at the New York Consultative Meeting are still very useful criteria to get POPIN-Africa functioning in a pragmatic way;

(ii) that the responsibility for the collection and processing of information on the Gambia should be left with the Sahel Institute;

(iii) that more funds and resources be made available for the acquisition of documents to ensure a steady flow of documents within the network;

(iv) that document acquisition could be contracted out to select institutions or individuals in each country over a specific period;

(v) that a list of social science serials published in Africa should be compiled and subscriptions taken on a regular basis to those with higher frequency of citations on population;

(vi) that the Co-ordinating Unit provide guidelines to both national and sub-regional participating centres on external sources of population information on Africa;

(vii) that each sub-regional participating centre should work out the necessary details and mechanisms which will ensure effective identification and collection of documents in its region;

(viii) that meeting with users should be organized from time to time in order to sensitize them to the essential role of information services;

(ix) that a bibliographic workshop for POPIN-Africa be designed taking into consideration the major agreements arrived at the meeting;

(x) that a manual for bibliographic description and related aspects of data entry be compiled by the Co-ordinating Unit as soon as possible;

(xi) that the processing of documents for POPINDEX-Africa should all be done by the Co-ordinating Unit in the initial stages, because of attendant problems relating to data-entry, vocabulary compatibility and also the need to have ample time to prepare the various guidelines for the network;

(xii) that a systematic approach to up-date and maintenance of the Population Multilingual Thesaurus (PMT) to take care of African needs be adopted by the network;

(xiii) that the eventual computerization of the relevant operations within the network should be considered inevitable and should be taken into consideration at every stage of the network's evolution although computerization per se should not be an initial condition for participating in POPIN-Africa;

(xiv) that the question of the compatibility of the computer hardware used by the various components of the network must be considered as being of crucial importance and should be examined in detail by a consultant;

(xv) that the proposed number of publications envisaged under POPIN-Africa should be reviewed with special reference to POPIN-Africa Bulletin as to its appropriateness to the work-programme of POPIN-Africa;

(xvi) that the scope of POPINDEX-Africa be extended from its present bibliographic form to include other materials of interest;

(xvii) that a training workshop on POPIN-Africa methodologies for trainers from sub-regional participating centres be organized by the Co-ordinating Unit during the second quarter of 1985;

(xviii) that sub-regional participating centres should provide the Co-ordinating Unit with information pertinent to their training needs and requirements by June 1985.

(f) POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee

This meeting was scheduled to be held in 1984. However, as not much progress had been made on the project, it was decided to hold this meeting in December 1985. This paper was drafted before that meeting took place.

(g) Participation at the International Population Information Network (POPIN) Advisory Meeting.

The third session of this meeting was held in Mexico, 15-18 August 1984. The ECA Population Division was represented at the meetng. The Committee reviewed progress of work recommended at its second session held in Geneva in July 1983. These activities included work of the Working Group on the Management of the Population Multilingual Thesaurus (PMT); report of the 1984 meeting of the Working Group on the dissemination of Population Information; the proposed Working Group on the compatibility of population bibliographic system; proposals for the 1985 POPIN work programme.

IV. 1986-1987 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

16. During 1986-1987 it is hoped to consolidate participation of sub-regional centres in the POPIN-Africa project. Action will be taken to involve as many national centres to participate actively in the network. Training and advisory services to national centres in population information and documentation will form the major activities to be undertaken by the Co-ordinating Unit and sub-regional centres. Improved exchange of population information among members of the network will also be given great attention during 1986-1987. Both national centres and sub-regional centres will make inputs into future issues of POPIN-Africa Briefs, POPINDEX-Africa, Specialized Bibliographies and other publications.

Details of activities for 1986-1987 for POPIN-Africa are shown in the form of a table below:

Activities and outputs	Description of Activity	Cooperating bodies/Units	Comments
A. ACQUISITION AND COLLECTION BUILDING			
1. Documents identification and collection	will involve the identification of international, national and other non-African sources of African population information.	All components of the network as well as identified national centres and institutions. Other relevant institutions and centres in the USA and elsewhere will be contacted in this exercise.	Continuing activity initiated in 1984/1985 and expected to continue for the life span of the project.
2. Compilation of information sources	Information on sources of all periodicals/journals and other similar publications emanating from the national and other relevant centres will be compiled.	National centres in cooperation with the sub-regional centres.	On-going activity.
3. POPIN-Africa Duplicates programme (POPAF-DUPS)	Distribution of duplicate material to network members, especially national centres to enable them strengthen their population information bases.	National participating centres.	On-going activity.
B. PROCESSING AND STORAGE			
1. Updating of the POPIN-Africa 'referral' files	As network participants intensify their acquisition activities and send their bibliographic worksheets to the Coordinating Unit, the POPIN-Africa central file will be updated.	POPIN-Africa subregional participating centres, national centres, systems and networks. Also PADIS to provide technical facilities and backstopping.	The rate at which this activity will be successfully implemented will depend on related activities at identifying and strengthening national centres.

Activities and outputs	Description of activitiy	Cooperating bodies/units	Comments
2. Microreproduction of documents within the network	This will involve the 'micro-fitchèing'of all documents referenced within the network.	PADIS	
3. Distribution of computerized tapes and printouts	This will be generated at quarterly intervals and distributed to the sub-regional participating centres. National centres will be sent these listing only on demand.		
4. Cataloguing, indexing and abstracting of documents	These activities will be performed as part of the normal build-up to support the network. During the biennium attention will be directed to assisting the national centres to undertake these activities	National participating centres and sub-regional participating centres.	
C. PUBLICATIONS			
1. POPIN-Africa Briefs	Preparation of material for the newsletter of the POPIN-Africa network	Sub-regional and national participating centres.	Three issues per year.
2. African Population News letter	Informative newsletter which gives information on African population trends, policies, relationship between population and development etc.	" "	Two issues per year.
3. POPINDEX-Africa	Bibliographic index	" "	Two issues per year.

Activities and Outputs	Description of Activity	Cooperating bodies/units	Comments
4. Directory of African Demographers	Biennial listing of population-related experts in Africa.	Sub-regional and national participating centres	One issue in 1987.
5. Special bibliographies	Compilation of country or subject-specific bibliographies.	National and sub-regional participating centres	Two bibliographies one in 1986 and one in 1987.
6. Manuals and guidelines	Manual on population information utilization	"	Other guides may be prepared dependent on expressed needs from the region.
D. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING			
1. Integration of population information activities into existing national centres		National centres.	To save on operational costs and rationalize existing resources, the Co-ordinating Unit will actively promote integration of population information gathering and dissemination activities into existing national centres. Support in the form of documents acquisition, etc. will be given.

Activities and Outputs	Description of Activity	Cooperating bodies/Units	Comments
2. Training seminars/ workshops	(a) organize one training seminar in June 1986 on POPIN-Africa methodologies.	Sub-regional and national centres.	The Co-ordinating Unit will provide backup support for this activity to be organized by either PIDSA/RIPS or RESADOCAT/Sahel Institute in 1986.
	(b) Coordinate the organization of one seminar/workshop at one of the sub-regional participating centres with appropriate facilities in 1987.	National and sub-regional centres.	The workshop scheduled will focus on experiences with the implementation of common norms, standards etc. within the network.
E. MEETINGS			
1. POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee	Meeting to discuss policies, Programmes and other related activities connected with the implementation of POPIN-Africa operations.	IFORD, RIPS, CDC, IDRC, UNFPA, Sahel Institute, National centres and POPIN International.	Two meetings, one in 1986 and one in 1987 to be held immediately preceding the POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee meetings.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

17. The progress report has briefly outlined what has been done especially at the Co-ordinating Unit. The delay in finalizing funding arrangements for the sub-regional centres has been noted. It is therefore recommended that donor agencies, sub-regional centres and ECA should make every effort to resolve this problem in order to make the sub-regional centres play a greater role in this project.

18. During 1986 and 1987 greater efforts should be made to involve national centres in population information and documentation activities and to provide training and technical assistance to these national centres. Donor agencies will be called upon to provide funding support to national centres if such need is identified.

19. Efforts will be geared to implement those recommendations on population information contained in the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action, POPIN-Africa Review Meeting as well as those from POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee since member States have given great importance to population information for socio-economic development planning.

ANNEX I

Documents Distributed During 1984 - 1985 Included

1. - African Population Newsletter, Nos. 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49 (Bilingual).
2. - Manual X: Indirect Techniques for Demographic Estimation, UN/DIESA, Population Studies, No. 81, New York, 1983.
3. - Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population (Second African Population Conference, Arusha, Tanzania, 9-13 January 1984) ST/ECA/POP/1 - UNFPA Project No. RAF/83/P02 (English, French, Arabic).
4. - Fifth Population Inquiry Among Governments: ECA Member States Perceptions and Policies on Demographic Trends in Relation to Development as of 1982 - - ECA/PD/WP/1984/3.
5. - Report of the Second African Population Conference: Vol. I, (Arusha United Republic of Tanzania, 9-13 January 1984).
6. - Report de la deuxieme Conference Africaine sur la population: Vol.I, (Arusha, Republique Unie de Tanzanie, 9-13 janvier 1984).
7. - Second African Population Conference: Conference Papers: (Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 9-13 January 1984).
8. - Deuxieme Conference sur la population: Documents presentes a la Conference (Arusha, Republique de Tanzanie, 9-13 janvier 1984).
9. - Second African Population Conference: Country Statements (Trilingual) Vol.3, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 9-13 January 1984.
10. - African Population Profile/Profil de la population Africaine, Population Division, ECA, 1984.
11. - Interrelationships Among Infant and Childhood Mortality, Socio-Economic Factors and Fertility in Zambia: A Case Study of Lusaka and Ndola, UNECA, Addis Ababa, 1984.
12. - Seminaire national sur population et development: Cote d'Ivoire,13-18 decembere 1982 - CEA - Division de la population, Addis Abeba, janvier 1984.
13. - African Directory of Demographers/Repertoire Africaine des demographes, UN/ECA, Addis Ababa, December 1984.
14. - African Population Studies Series No. 4: International Migration, Population Trends and their Implications for Africa. UNECA Addis Ababa, 1983.
15. - African Population Studies Series No. 5: Nuptiality and Fertility (a comparative analysis of WFS data) UNECA, Addis Ababa,1983.
16. - African Population Studies Series No. 6: Population Growth and Educational Expenditures in ECA member States, UNECA, Addis Ababa, 1983.
17. - Seminaire National sur population et development: Tchad,10-14 december 1984, UNECA.
18. - POPINDEX-Africa No. 1.
19. - POPIN-Africa Briefs Issues 1 and 2.